

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 20 to more clearly define the present invention. Applicant appreciates that claims 22, 24, 26-34, 37-38, 41-45, 48 and 49 were found allowable by the Office Action. Applicant request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 20 based on the amendment to claim 20 and the following remarks.

TEIG ET AL DOES NOT TEACH THE PRESENT INVENTION

The office action has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Teig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,168). As presently amended claim 20 claims a switch mechanism that is specifically designated for activation of the spray cartridge within the tubular connector coupling of the device of the present invention. Specifically, the activation of the spray cartridge of the device of the present invention is made through a switch mechanism located centrally on the device. Such location of the switch is helpful in preventing the accidental discharge of irritant spray as a deliberate action must be made to cause the release of spray. In sharp contrast, the counterpart switch mechanism of Teig et al., that is the spray switch, is located at the end of the device and can be accidentally activated if the device is struck from behind or is jammed against a solid surface. The side switch mechanism (18) in Teig et al. is used only to activate a flashlight, which is not analogous to the use of the switch mechanism in the present invention. Further, the device of the present invention includes only one switch mechanism thereby permitting the user to concentrate on the situation at hand rather than having to search for one switch to activate a light and a second switch to activate an irritant spray. Teig et al. does not teach such a device and therefore cannot anticipate the present invention.

As presently amended claim 20 should now be allowable over all of the art cited.

If the Examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues that may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

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A petition covering the necessary extension of time to respond to the outstanding action is enclosed as is a check for the fees associated with the petition. Should there be any fees due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should any additional petitions be necessary, Applicant requests that this paper constitute same. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this amendment, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted.

Review, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.
No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.



Daniel M. Gurfinkel

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Welsh & Katz, Ltd.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 655-1500